



No. 108 – December 2009

*From the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council,
the social justice and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia*

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

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FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

As we enter the Season of Advent and look forward to Christmas, I would like to thank you for your kind support throughout the year and for your great commitment to the work for justice and peace.

As we reflect on the year that has past, may we be renewed with hope and confirmed in our faith that the love of God, made manifest in the person of Jesus Christ, has the power to transform our world.

To review the issues of war, violence and injustice that have emerged and been addressed in these Briefings throughout 2009 is a reminder of some of the great failings of humanity and the sufferings of the oppressed. We also see where transformation is needed and where encouragement can be found.

This year began with the awful tragedy unfolding in Gaza. Amid all the voices speaking at that time, I remember most vividly the voice of Fr Masallam, the Parish Priest of Gaza:

'The children of Gaza have been sleeping with their families in the hallways of their homes (if they have them)... They tremble with fear at every sound, every movement, and every violent F-16 attack. ... people's houses are severely affected by the violence, and it leads to the death of many children. Our children are suffering from trauma, anxiety, undernourishment, malnutrition, poverty, and lack of heating.'

Similarly haunting were the words of Fr Amalraj in June, capturing the horror of his parishioners along with the many thousands of other civilians caught up in fighting in the so-called 'safe-zones' in the north of Sri Lanka:

'There was heavy shelling from the army side. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) shot people. The army were trying to capture us. The people were caught in between in the last moment for the LTTE and the crucial point in the battle, for the army. I cannot say which side was crueller... Within this two square kilometres there were more than 100,000 people, packed in and shells raining down.'

The fact that refugees and asylum seekers, escaping the horrors of situations like this, became the subject once more of a defensive political debate and sensationalised media coverage in Australia is a great shame. Decade-old terms such as 'illegals' and 'queue jumpers' resurfaced during the parliamentary debates of October and November. 1,800 arriving this year by boat, and Australia's small humanitarian intake pales into insignificance compared with the world's 42 million who uprooted by conflict and persecution. We Australians are entitled to feel ashamed that our political leaders used those old misleading arguments in the recent parliamentary debate. It was shameful.

On the domestic front we have argued strongly for a proper response to the needs

of remote Indigenous communities that are currently subject to the Northern Territory Emergency Response. Since the inception of 'the Intervention' in 2007, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council have called for support for these communities which is in accordance with the Racial Discrimination Act, and that moves beyond law-and-order to have a community development focus which is truly consultative and based on enduring partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

There have been many issues through the year that have been a source of encouragement in the work for justice and peace. These have included promulgation of the Holy Father's Encyclical Letter *Caritas in Veritate*, which challenged the growing gap between the poorest and the richest at this time of financial crisis. Issues addressed included insatiable consumerism, a crisis born of a morality that is not centered on humanity, and the search for a way of using earth's resources wisely and economically.

Remember also in May, in the light of the global financial crisis, Bishop Christopher Saunders issued the pastoral letter for the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, which called for increases to the minimum wage for the most vulnerable of the 'working families' our politicians portray as being a norm for the Australian workforce culture.

One highlight of the year was the Social Justice Sunday Statement, 'And You Will Be My Witnesses: Young people and justice'. Launching the Statement and referring to the particular justice issues that the Statement raises - Indigenous justice, workplace issues, mental health, protection from abuse, and other global issues such as environmental and development justice - Bishop Fisher said that 'the Bishops of Australia are more convinced than ever that our young people are empowered by the Holy Spirit, and ready, willing and able to take them on. 'They will be the bearers of the cross and ambassadors of faith, justice and hope, of charity in truth, in the decades ahead.'

There are so many other issues of social justice that we are all dealing with. Those listed above are only a few of the ones we have all tried to address.

Some of these challenges can seem insurmountable and without practical solutions. It is not uncommon to hear criticisms of strategies for justice and peace - that they are overly optimistic or won't work. Often, too, it can be that the loudest critics have little to offer in the way of alternatives that will bring hope to seemingly hopeless situations. In other areas we see small victories and the basis for progression and great optimism. And many examples of the small victories and hard work for justice have not been mentioned here.

In our shared work for justice, we might reflect on this following passage, Isaiah 9: 1, 3 - 7 which will be read at Midnight Mass this Christmas:

*The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone. ...
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt
and consumed by fire.
For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.
From this time onward and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do
this.*

On behalf of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and its Secretariat I wish you and your loved ones a happy and holy

Christmas and blessings for the New Year.

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer



Current Issues / Resources

FAREWELL TO SR SUZETTE

Sr Suzette Clark rsc is leaving the ACSJC Secretariat after almost 11 years of service. In her capacity of Research and Projects Officer, Suzette has produced many resources and engaged in activities from discussion guides, liturgy notes and diaries, through to national consultations, public submissions, policy delegations and justice publications. This work has ranged from the Education and Formation to the Research and Advocacy elements of the ACSJC's work. Those aspects of the Council's work concerning networking can be seen in the many groups Suzette has belonged to and chaired and been a member. As members of this Council would attest, her legendary group-work skills have been invaluable in bringing clarity to diverse and complex issues. She will be very much missed by the members of the Secretariat.

'WILL THEY BE HEARD' REPORT

A group called 'Concerned Australians' has just released a report criticising the Government's consultations with Indigenous communities on the future of the Emergency Response. The Report is authored by Alastair Nicholson, Larissa Behrendt, Alison Vivian, Nicole Watson and Michele Harris. In the introduction, Alastair Nicholson says, 'After two years the Government has finally arrived at a really important amendment to the intervention legislation, namely the restoration of the relevant provisions of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth)... Normally, that would have been enough to dispose of most of the more offensive aspects of the intervention. However... the Government has embarked upon what it calls a process of consultation with the Aboriginal people in an attempt to

gain support from the Aboriginal people for the preservation of particular features of the intervention that the Government thinks are good for them and to therefore designate them as 'special measures' that can be continued despite the reintroduction of the Act. As this Report shows, this is not consultation at all.' To download this important report, visit: <http://rollbacktheintervention.wordpress.com/>

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PEOPLES

Tom Calma has announced that the new Indigenous representative organisation will be called the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. Commissioner Calma, who has led the independent Indigenous Steering Committee since December last year, announced the name after the federal Government confirmed it had accepted the recommendations of the Committee's report, 'Our future in our hands', and had agreed to initial funding of the organisation until December 2013. The Steering Committee continues to focus on establishing the Ethics Council, appointing an interim National Executive to lead the organisation through the development phase, completing the preparatory work required to incorporate the company, and finalising arrangements for a Chief Executive Officer. (refer: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2009/116_09.html)

INDIGENOUS CHRISTMAS CARDS

Aboriginal Artist Melissa Brickell has gifted the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry of Melbourne with two beautiful images as Christmas Cards. Five of each design per pack comes with a

reflection on the back. The cards are blank inside for you to write your own special Christmas message. \$13.00 per pack of 10 (incl.GST) plus postage. Discount for orders over 200. To enquire or receive an emailed order form with a copy of the art displayed, contact acmvicki@optusnet.com.au or call (03) 9480 3849

EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

3 December is the International Day of People with a Disability. This year's theme is 'Empowering people with disabilities and their families'. To coincide with this event, the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life has prepared a bookmark, which will be distributed to parishes. 'We are called and challenged to take action to ensure our communities are open and active in promoting opportunities that include people with a disability,' he said. Contact: 02 6201 9859, 0408 561 255 or disability@catholic.org.au. Web: <http://www.catholic.org.au/>.

'SOMETHING FOR NOTHING - UNPAID OVERTIME IN AUSTRALIA'

The Australia Institute has just released a policy paper which shows that Australian workers are 'donating' more than their annual leave entitlement back to their employers in the form of unpaid overtime. The typical full-time employee is working 70 minutes of unpaid overtime a day, which equates to 33 eight-hour days per year, or six and a half standard working weeks. The paper by Josh Fear and Richard Denniss examines the nature, extent and consequences of Australia's heavy reliance on unpaid overtime. Across the workforce, the 2.14 billion hours of unpaid overtime worked per year is a \$72 billion gift to employers, equivalent to 6% of all economic activity in Australia or 1.16 million full-time jobs. To download the paper, visit: <https://www.tai.org.au/?q=node/49>

COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS APPEAL

With the spread of Typhoon Ketsana across the Asia Pacific severely affecting the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia; a tsunami in the Pacific devastating communities in Samoa and Tonga; massive flooding in India; landslides in Nepal; and the earthquake in Indonesia centering on Padang in Sumatra, people across

our region are in desperate need. You can help these people in our neighbourhood by giving to the Caritas Australia 'Communities in Crisis – Asia Pacific Appeal', Donate online at <https://www.caritas.org.au> or phone 1800 024 413 (tollfree).

CARITAS AUSTRALIA - GLOBAL GIFTS

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts provide a special way to mark the big occasions in life. Giving a Gift of Life card is a meaningful way to celebrate Christmas and makes a real difference to lives of people around the world. You can make a difference for peace, food security, environment, maternal health, medical support, child health, water, education and disaster response. You can choose to send the gift via email as an e-card, or order a traditional printed card to send in the post. For more details and to order see http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global_Gifts&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=5398.

CATHOLIC MISSION GIFT REGISTRY

The Gift registry is designed for those people who are difficult to buy for, who may have everything they need, but would appreciate a donation on their behalf. You choose the area of work, the recipient of the gift will receive a certificate explaining which area of work your donation will go to. All donations received via your use of the Gift Registry are allocated to relevant Catholic Mission projects around the world. For more details and to order see: <http://www.catholicmission.org.au/gifts/>.

JESUIT COMMUNICATIONS FUNDRAISING

Jesuit Communications is running a Christmas Raffle to help in its production of quality publications such as Eureka Street. Prizes for the 2009 Christmas Raffle are:

1st - A \$5,000 MYER shopping voucher; 2nd - A \$1,500 MYER voucher; 3rd - A \$500 MYER voucher. The raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 15 December 2009 and all winners will be notified. Should you wish to obtain a book of raffle tickets or for further information, visit <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=12613> or contact 1300 728 846, fax (03) 9421 9600 or mail PO Box 553 Richmond Vic 3121 to request a book(s) of raffle tickets.

Latest Publications

(Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499 or download an order form from the ACSJC website [that can be faxed to (02) 8306 3498]: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf)

ORDER NOW! - 2010 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2010 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. It highlights the theme of peace-building as a Christian response to anger and violence in Australian society. The Diary provides a social justice program for the full year. Information and ideas for prayer and reflection are included. This is an essential resource for teachers and parishes. A great Christmas gift. Diaries are available now. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

2009 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT - ORDERS STILL BEING TAKEN

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled 'And You Will Be My Witnesses: Young people and justice'. The ACSJC is still taking orders for the Statement. An order form, summary and other resources are available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten steps towards being witnesses to the Gospel.

Call (02) 8306 3499

Social Justice Sunday Statement Summary,

Liturgy Notes, Teachers' Notes and Powerpoint presentation - available at: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

ACSJC DISCUSSION GUIDE - CARITAS IN VERITATE

The ACSJC Discussion Guide reviews key themes of Pope Benedict's new Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth), as well as offering questions for reflection, excerpts for discussion, and prayer. Available in html and pdf formats on the ACSJC website: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

SERIES PAPER - 'WORK AND DIGNITY'

The latest paper in the Catholic Social Justice Series (No. 66) is a collection of the Pastoral Letters for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker that have been issued by the Chairman of the ACSJC each year since 1998. Themes in these letters include the nature of a just wage and the vital link between fair pay and family life; the importance of trade unions in the working life of a society; and the wider significance of work in the community. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

(Catholic Social Justice Series papers: \$6.60 a copy, plus postage. Postage rates for Catholic Social Justice Series Papers: 1 copy \$1; 2 copies \$1.45; 3-5 copies \$2.45)

Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499, fax (02) 8306 3489 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf



This Month's Notices

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER. REFUGEE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL INTAKE CONSULTATIONS (NATIONAL).

Each year, the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) invites people from across Australia to participate in its annual national consultations on the future of Australia's refugee and humanitarian program. These consultations inform RCOA's annual submission to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship on issues the Government should consider in planning the coming year's refugee program.

TASMANIA

10 December: 12.00 to 2.30 pm, Café Conversation, Migrant Resource Centre of Southern Tasmania, Acacia Room, 49 Molle Street, Hobart.

VICTORIA

2 December: 2.30 to 4.30 pm - Consultation with service providers; 6:00 to 8:00 pm - Consultation with refugee community members; AMES, Rooms 3 and 5, 289 Barkly Street, Footscray.

3 December: 12.30 to 3.00 pm, Geelong West Town Hall (Supper Room), 153 Pakington Street, Geelong West. Hosted by Diversitat. Contact: 02 9211 9333 or info@refugeecouncil.org.au. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/consultations.html>.

9 NOVEMBER - 24 DECEMBER. FUNDRAISER: 'STREETSMART' (NATIONAL). StreetSmart is a great way to support people who are homeless while eating out at Christmas functions. The success of this event is due to its simplicity and the principle that many small donations add up to a big impact for those experiencing homelessness. There are over 220 StreetSmart top restaurants to dine at, where you can help out just by dining out and leaving a donation. Web: <http://www.streetsmartaustralia.org/findrestaurant>.

23 NOVEMBER - 19 DECEMBER. YOUTH LEADERS FORMATION COURSE (NSW). This Youth Leaders' Formation Course is designed to help those who desire to help the Church to grow in their knowledge, service and love of Christ, and to be formed in servant leadership.

Applications must be received by 1 October. Applicants will be interviewed and notified of the outcome of their application by 2 November. Cost: \$495. Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, Grose Vale. Contact: 02 9390 5290 or ylfc@sydneycatholic.org. Web: <http://www.sydney.catholic.org.au/ylfc>.

26 NOVEMBER 2009 - 28 MAY 2010.

EXHIBITION: 'TALKING FAITHS - MY STORY, YOUR STORY, OUR STORY' (VIC). This exhibition documents a project involving young people exploring interfaith issues through a multicultural perspective. Talking Faiths features multimedia representations and photographs of the student project and artworks developed by the students as part of their conversations. This exhibition is a part of the Parliament of the World's Religions cultural program. Cost: \$8, children free. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Immigration Museum, Old Customs House, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Contact: 13 11 02. Web: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/talking-faiths-exhibition>.

30 NOVEMBER. SACOSS HOUSING ADVOCACY DAY: 'CREATE A BETTER STATE' (SA). This day will bring together people with concerns about access and affordability of housing in South Australia and will give them an opportunity to share their concerns with Members of Parliament. Web: <http://createabetterstate.wordpress.com/events/>.

30 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER. CONFERENCE: 'MEETING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: OLD PROBLEMS, NEW CHALLENGES CONFERENCE' (VIC). Hosted by the Australian Council for International Development and La Trobe University in partnership with AusAID. Speakers: Dr. Jan Vandemoortele, former UNDP Resident representative in Pakistan and one of the architects of the MDGs; Hon Bob McMullan MP, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance; etc. Cost: \$385, concession \$132. La Trobe University, Bundoora Campus, Melbourne. Contact: 03 9479 2289

or g.hoffstaedter@latrobe.edu.au. Web: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/humansecurity/MDGconference.html>.

30 NOVEMBER - 20 DECEMBER. EXHIBITION: 'THE FUTURE IS A FOREIGN COUNTRY: THEY DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY THERE' (VIC).

An exhibition hosted by 'field' (Furthering Inclusive Learning and Development for people with disabilities) will explore the lives of people with disability in the world of tomorrow. The Foyer Gallery, Gasworks Arts Park, 21 Graham Street, Albert Park. Contact: steph.tout@field.org.au or 03 8686 5621. Web: <http://www.field.org.au/index.html>.

DECEMBER ONWARDS. CHILD HEALTH

AWARENESS EVENTS: 'SURVIVE PAST FIVE' FIFTH BIRTHDAY PARTIES (NATIONAL). Micah Challenge wants to see a 'Survive past five' 5th Birthday party held in every electorate in Australia before the 2010 federal election, to advocate for child health. 'Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed'. Psalm 82:3. Several events have already happened with more to come. Web: <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/fifthbirthdayaction>.

1 DECEMBER. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CLASSICAL SPIRITUALITY MEETS MODERN SCIENCE? ARE THE TWO IRRECONCILABLE?' (VIC). John Garratt Publishing is hosting a Public Lecture presented by Sr Joan Chittister OSB. Places are limited. Cost: \$25. 7.30 pm, Veneto Club, 191 Bulleen Rd, Bulleen. Contact: 1300 650 878. Web: <http://www.johngarratt.com.au>.

1 - 2 DECEMBER. CONFERENCE: 'UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS: POLICY, PARTNERSHIPS AND PRACTICE' (VIC). The Centre for Public Policy, in association with the National Employment Services Association is holding this conference. Speakers: Randall Eberts, President, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, USA; Sally Sinclair, CEO, NESAs; David Thompson, CEO, Jobs Australia; Mark Considine, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne; etc. Cost: \$550. 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, Victory Room, Level 1, Gate 8, Etihad Stadium, Harbour Esplanade, Docklands.

Contact: 03 8344 6820 or lrose@unimelb.edu.au. Web: <http://www.public-policy.unimelb.edu.au/unemployment09/index.html>.

1 DECEMBER. WORLD AIDS DAY (INTERNATIONAL). As part of the Catholic network, Caritas Australia has made tackling HIV/AIDS a priority area in its aid and development work. See how you can help, visit http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=HIV_AIDS.

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance has put together a liturgy around the global theme for World AIDS Day - 'Universal Access and Human Rights'. The liturgy and other resources are available at <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hivaids/resources/>.

Thematic posters and postcards are also available from the World Aids Campaign website, <http://www.worldaidscampaign.org/> where you can also find information on World AIDS Day and events.

1 DECEMBER. DISCUSSION AND FILM SCREENING: 'A TESTIMONY TO THE PAPUAN TRAGEDY' (NSW). To commemorate UN Human Rights Day on 10 December, Indonesian Solidarity is organizing this event about continuing human rights abuses in West Papua. The film 'Listen to Our Voice' contains testimonies from the survivors of torture that portray protracted and systematic human rights abuses. It was produced by The Office for Justice and Peace of the Diocese of Jayapura and WITNESS New York for hearing at the UN Committee against Torture in 2008. This forum is being supported by the Franciscan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation and West Papua Project at the University of Sydney. Speakers: Budi Hernawan, former Director, Office for Justice and Peace of the Catholic Diocese of Jayapura, Papua; Dr John Otto Ondawame, Vice Chairman, West Papua National Coalition for Liberation; and Jenny Leong, Campaign Coordinator, Amnesty International Australia. 1.00 to 2.00 pm, Amnesty International, Level 1, 79 Myrtle Street, Chippendale. Contact: 02 9217 3874 or indonesian_solidarity@yahoo.com.au. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/22141/>.

1 - 3 DECEMBER. NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FAMILY AND COMMUNITY STRENGTHS CONFERENCE: 'STRONG STORIES, STRONG MOB, STRONG KIDS: GROWING UP TOGETHER' (NSW). This conference will bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members, community workers, researchers and policy people to share stories about cultural, family and community strengths that have contributed to improving life for Australian Indigenous people and how this may effect policy and building capacity and have an impact on the wellbeing of Indigenous families and communities. Cost: \$750, concession \$635. 8.30 am to 5.00 pm. University of Newcastle, Callaghan Campus, Callaghan, Newcastle. Contact: 02 4921 6403 or FAC-Events@newcastle.edu.au. Web: <http://www.apo.org.au/event/2nd-national-aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-family-community-strengths-conference-0>.

1 - 4 DECEMBER. ARTS EVENT: 'SIZZLE' INCLUSIVE (NSW). Penrith Regional Gallery and The Lewers Bequest present the following events for International Day for People With a Disability (IDPWD). No cost.
1 December: Audio Tour, 10.00 to 11.30 am, includes morning tea.
2 December: Sizzle - Festival day, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, a smorgasbord of art, performances, film and disco dancing.
4 December: Creative Initiatives for Carers, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, find out how to make a gallery visit more interesting for your clients. This fun professional development session will include a demonstration of inspiring art making ideas and products presented by Eckersley's Art and a screening of Tropfest winner, 'Be My Brother'. Penrith Regional Gallery, 86 River Road, Emu Plains. Contact: 02 4735 1100 or nmccarthy@penrithcity.nsw.gov, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/43685/448/>.

2 DECEMBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY (INTERNATIONAL). Slavery exists today. It's right here among us and happening under our noses. Australia is a destination for trafficked people who are used for a variety of purposes. For more information and to find out what you can do, visit <http://www.acrath.org.au/>.

2 DECEMBER. EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (ERISJ) WORKSHOP: FAIRTRADE (WA). This is a free professional development workshop for networks to come to a better understanding of the fair trade movement. Fairtrade Labelling Australia New Zealand (FLANZ) Business Development Officer, Daniel Mackay, will lead the discussion on Fairtrade commodities and craft. Limited numbers. No cost. 3.00 to 5.00 pm, ERISJ, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: 08 9432 2400 or admin@erisj.org.au. Web: <http://erisj.org.au>.

2 DECEMBER. HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK FILM NIGHT (TAS). This documentary focuses on Amal Basry, an Iraqi woman whose first name means 'Hope'. Basry was one of seven survivors of SIEV X, the boat whose terrible fate in 2001 became a symbol of what was revealed and concealed about refugee policy in Australia. Cost: gold coin donation. 5.30 pm, Town Hall, Macquarie Street, Hobart. Contact: tasaia@amnesty.org.au, RSVP by 1 December. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/tas/event/22080/>.

2 - 3 DECEMBER. BREAKTHROUGH SUMMIT (VIC). Asia Pacific Women, Faith and Development Alliance's vision is that it will catalyse a new movement of collective action and investment for women and girls. Their efforts are focused on the support of women in the Pacific, South East Asia, Indigenous women and refugee women of Australia and New Zealand. Speakers: Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, General Secretary of the World YWCA; Sister Joan Chittister OSB, Founder and Executive Director of Benetvision, Chair of Global Peace Initiative for Women; and The Hon. Dame Carol Kidu CBE, MP, Minister for Community Development and Religion and Sports, Papua New Guinea. Cost: \$400. 8.30 am to 5.30 pm.
2 December, Asia Pacific Breakthrough Summit: BMW Edge and Federation Square, corner Flinders and Swanston Streets, Melbourne.
3 December, Women, Faith and Development Alliance Working Sessions: Sofitel Melbourne, 25 Collins Street, Melbourne. Contact: 02 9999 5882 or kristi.mansfield@greenstone.com.au. Web: <http://www.breakthrough2009.com.au/Default.aspx>.

2 - 4 DECEMBER. CONFERENCE: LEADERS IN INDIGENOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION (LIME) CONNECTION - 'ADVANCING INDIGENOUS HEALTH: WORKFORCE INNOVATIONS' (VIC).

The Connection will address leading practice approaches to integrating Indigenous health into medical education and workplace training. The target audience for the Connection includes Indigenous and non-Indigenous medical educators, Indigenous health specialists, general practitioners, policy makers, and community members to discuss innovative approaches in Indigenous medical education and the experiences of practitioners. Cost: \$770, concession \$550. 5.00 pm, Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham Street, Carlton. Contact: 03 8344 0828 or lime-network@unimelb.edu.au. Web: www.limenetwork.net.au.

2 - 4, 9 DECEMBER. REFUGEE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA TELECONFERENCES (NATIONAL).

This is an important opportunity to share your thoughts, suggestions and concerns about Australia's refugee and humanitarian program. Feedback will contribute to a submission to the Minister and Department of Immigration which will set out recommendations for the future direction of the program. A discussion paper on the consultations, containing an overview of some of the new and emerging settlement and refugee policy issues on which RCOA is seeking input, as well as our key consultation questions, can be downloaded from http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/2010-11_Intake_Submission_Discussion_Paper.pdf. Contact/Register: 02 9211 9333 or info@refugeecouncil.org.au. Web: http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/Teleconference_Schedule.pdf.

2 - 8 DECEMBER. DISABILITY ENTERPRISES LEURA ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION: 'SENSORIAL '09 - COLOUR AND COLLABORATION' (NSW).

International Day of People with a Disability is celebrated on 3rd December each year with the theme: 'Don't dis my Ability' and is 'a day of celebration, inclusion and participation'. Disability Enterprises Leura (DE) will be part of the celebrations when they present this exhibition, in an ongoing partnership with Katoomba Fine Art Gallery.

No cost. 5 December: Opening, 11.00 am, Wine and Cheese, 2.00 to 4.00 pm; 2 - 8 December: Exhibition, 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Katoomba Fine Art Gallery and Restaurant, 98 Lurline Street, Katoomba. Contact: 02 4784 1118 or info@disabilityenterprises.com. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/45066/448/>.

3 DECEMBER. BOOK LAUNCH: 'MEMORY IS ANOTHER COUNTRY: WOMEN OF THE VIETNAMESE DIASPORA' (VIC). Author Nathalie Nguyen, ARC Australian Research Fellow, Australian Centre, School of Historical Studies, explores the experiences of Vietnamese refugee women since the end of the war. The book will be launched by Professor Joy Damousi, Head of the School of Historical Studies, with a welcome address by Professor Leslyanne Hawthorne, Associate Dean International, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room, Level 1, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, corner Swanston Street and Monash Road, Melbourne. Contact: 03 8344 5963 or jmcbeth@unimelb.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: http://melbourneuniv-web.ungerboeck.com/coe/coe_p1_all.aspx?oc=10&cc=COE#DECEMBER2009.

3 DECEMBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY (IDPwD) (INTERNATIONAL). This day is celebrated worldwide recognising the achievements and contributions of people with disability. IDPwD aims to: showcase the skills, abilities, contributions and achievements of people with disability; promote a positive image of people with disability; involve people with disability and the broader community in activities to celebrate and raise awareness of IDPwD. Contact: 1800 440 385. Web: <http://www.idpwd.com.au/index.asp>.

3 DECEMBER. ANNUAL DINNER: MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF WAR (MAPW) (NSW). Speaker will be MAPW President, Dr Bill Williams, speaking on new hope for the eradication of all nuclear weapons. 7.00 pm, UTS Haberfield Rowing Club, Dobroyd Parade, Haberfield. Contact: bunyip@bigpond.net.au. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/nsw-dinner-and-agm>.

3 DECEMBER. COMMUNITY MEETING: 'CHOICES FOR CHILDREN' (NSW). This meeting is for women against the commercialisation of children.

Discover new ways of thinking, acting and being through critical and creative discussion, community action and positive social change. Please note that because this is held at a Women's Health Centre, only women can attend this group. Facilitators: Kristina Brenner and Themis Thomas. Cost: donations welcome. 12.30 to 2.30 pm, Bankstown Women's Health Centre, 74 Restwell Street, Bankstown. Contact: 02 9790 1378 or kristina.brenner@sswahs.nsw.gov.au. Web: <http://www.bwhc.websytle.org.au/site.cfm?/bwhc/5/>.

3 - 4 DECEMBER. CofFEE CONFERENCE: 'LABOUR UNDERUTILISATION - UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT' (NSW). Presented by Centre of Full Employment and Equity, University of Newcastle. As this year will be the first for some time that official unemployment rates will rise, the conference will be particularly important in sharing ideas from researchers about how to avoid major labour market devastation. Speakers: Louise Tarrant, National Secretary, Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union; Prof Philip Harvey, Philip L. Harvey, Professor, Rutgers School of Law, NJ; Dr. Jesus Felipe, Principal Economist, Head of the Strategic Research Unit, Director of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute, Asian Development Bank, Philippines; etc. Cost: \$400, concession \$225. University of Newcastle. Contact: 02 4921 7283 or coffee@newcastle.edu.au. Web: <http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/conferences/2009/>.

3 - 9 DECEMBER. PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS: 'MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE - HEARING EACH OTHER, HEALING THE EARTH' (VIC). The world's largest and most diverse interfaith gathering with over 500 inspiring programs and many inspirational leaders including His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Cost: \$572. Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre, 2 Clarendon Street, South Wharf. Contact: 1300 852 156. Web: <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org>.

4 DECEMBER. DOCUMENTARY: 'WHEN HOME IS WHERE THE HURT IS' (NSW). DAFVIS, the Macarthur Legal Centre and the Campbelltown Domestic Violence Liaison Committee invite you to a short documentary project funded by the Attorney General's Office and in recognition of the 16 days of Action against domestic violence, and Stop DV Day 4 December 2009. The film features interviews from local survivors and prominent people, voicing the issue of Domestic Violence. It will be launched by the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC, NSW Attorney General. Morning tea provided. 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, Dumaresq Street Cinemas, 4 Dumaresq Street, Campbelltown. Contact: 02 4640 7300, RSVP by 20 November. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/45213/448/>.

4 DECEMBER. SEMINAR: 'SOCIAL AND EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT: PERCEPTIONS OF MODERN INDIGENOUS CULTURE IN AUSTRALIA' (SA). What level of importance is placed on education to transform society and nurture Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and children? Debate continues on how to increase educational opportunities, from early childhood learning through to parents' support groups. No cost. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Barbara Hanrahan Building (BH2-09), City West Campus SA, University of South Australia, Level 1, 101 Currie Street, Adelaide. Contact: 08 8302 0964, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.unisa.edu.au/giving/news/successfulageing/seminars2009.asp>.

4 DECEMBER. ERISJ INTENSIVE: 'CORE INSIGHTS THAT UNDERPIN SOCIAL JUSTICE' (WA). This Intensive provides participants with a deep understanding of the underpinning insights and knowledge that make social justice empirically and ethically convincing. The day comprises a highly interactive engagement with the 35 core insights that Freeman identifies. Speakers: David Freeman, Director, ERISJ, sociologist and political scientist by training; and Dr Suma Kaare, Social Justice Education Coordinator, ERISJ. Cost: \$25 - \$150. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, ERISJ, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: 08 9432 2400 or admin@erisj.org.au. Web: http://erisj.org.au/091204_intensive.

4 DECEMBER. MARCH: HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK (TAS). The Human Rights Week Organising Committee invites schools to the March. Bring a banner or placard with a RIGHT for which you want to stand up, but remember it must be in the Universal Declaration of Rights. The Organising Committee will give prizes for the best, most original and most well thought out banner or placard. 12.30 to 1.10 pm Starts at the fountain roundabout off Liverpool Street near the ABC Centre and ends at Parliament House lawns for speeches and sausage sizzle. Contact: talvin@bigpond.net.au or pinferim@hobartcity.com.au, RSVP essential. Web: http://www.afairerworld.org/_Coming_events/HRW_March.pdf.

4 DECEMBER. DISCUSSION: 'ON CHRISTMAS ISLAND FOR CHRISTMAS?' (SA). Migrant and Refugee Research Cluster (MARRC) are holding this briefing and discussion roundtable. We anticipate a wide-ranging discussion that will include: process issues for detainees, torture and trauma, children in detention, and securing sensitive settlement services. 'Discussion starters' include: Andrew Bartlett, refugee and asylum seeker advocate; Libby Hogarth, migration agent; Julie Robinson, Flinders researcher and convenor of NARN. No cost. 5.00 to 7.00 pm, Hetzel Theatre, State Library of South Australia, corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide. Contact: Mary.lyons@flinders.edu.au or 08 8201 5115, RSVP by 27 November. Web: <http://marrc.flinders.edu.au/>.

4 - 6 DECEMBER. CONFERENCE: 'BREAKING DOWN BOUNDARIES' (NSW). Breaking Down Boundaries is an intervarsity conference for law students, organised by students from six Sydney universities. With the theme 'New Frontiers', the packed programme will focus on contemporary, cutting-edge legal issues. Speakers: Commonwealth Attorney General Robert McClelland and the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission; Catherine Branson QC etc. Sydney University Law School, Eastern Avenue, Camperdown Campus, University of Sydney; accommodation - The Women's College, 15 Carillon Ave, Camperdown. Contact: info@breakingdownboundaries.org. Web: <http://breakingdownboundaries.org/>.

4 - 10 DECEMBER. MASTERPEACE EXHIBITION (WA). If you are like most people, your life is overflowing with an abundance of STUFF. Poverty, on the other hand encompasses so much more than limited possession; poverty deprives people of their dignity. MasterPEACE is a one week progressive exhibition, beginning with a free STUFF SWAP opening party and ending with an Exhibition Showcase closing party. The five days in between will see the art space inhabited by 10 artists, who will use the remaining unwanted junk in an artistic exploration of what it could mean to Demand Dignity. 4 December: Opening Party, 7.00 pm; 5 - 9 December, Gallery Open, 1.00 to 6.00 pm; 10 December: Closing Party, 7.00 pm. Banknotes Arts Space, 214 William Street, Northbridge. Web: <http://www.artilleryfestival.com/exhibition.html>.

5 DECEMBER. REFLECTION: 'WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED - JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE COMING OF CHRISTMAS' (NSW). A reflection afternoon from the Justice and Peace Office Sydney with input from Dr Antoinette Collins and Kir Deng as well as time for prayer and conversation. Dr Antoinette Collins lectures in Biblical Studies at the Australian Catholic University. She has a MLitt from the University of Oxford, and her areas of interest include Hebrew Scripture and the New Testament as a Jewish text. Kir Deng is 19 years old, and a recent graduate of St Ignatius College, Riverview. Kir was born in Sudan and lived in Egypt before coming to Australia as a refugee. 2.00 to 5.00 pm, St Mary's Catholic Church, 21 Swanston Street, Erskineville, (5 minute walk from Erskineville Station). Contact: 02 9390 5319 or chantelle.ogilvie@sydneycatholic.org, RSVP by 1 December.

5 DECEMBER. INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY (IVD) (INTERNATIONAL). IVD is celebrated worldwide with thousands of volunteers involved in a range of IVD initiatives including clean-up campaigns, conferences, exhibitions, morning teas and many other activities all aimed to highlight the role of volunteers in their communities. For events and resources see: http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s02_article/default.asp?nav_top_id=55&nav_cat_id=208.

5 DECEMBER. PROTEST FOR REFUGEES: 'LET THE REFUGEES INTO AUSTRALIA!' (VIC).

This protest is organised by Refugee Action Collective. 2.00 pm, State Library, corner Swanston and Latrobe Streets, Melbourne. Contact: refugeeaction@hotmail.com or 0409 252 673. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/refugee-protest>.

5 DECEMBER. FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TOUR (VIC). Join in the fun of Melbourne's first fair trade shopping tour, just in time for Christmas. Visit 3 fair trade shops, each with a diverse range of products. First stop - The Trading Circle, Abbotsford (www.thetradingcircle.com.au), second stop - Sankofa, Fitzroy (www.sankofa.com.au), last stop - Ethiopia.com, Fitzroy (www.ethiopia.com.au).

Cost: \$20, includes transport, champers, nibbles, Fairtrade tea and coffee, Fairtrade goodie bag. 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. Contact: kym@sankofa.com.au or 03 9416 4584. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/255>.

5 DECEMBER. ANGLICAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR TRADE MARKET (NSW). 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, St John's Church, corner Chapman Avenue and Beecroft Road, Beecroft. Contact: elizabeth.collison@gmail.com or 0432 876 694. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/258>.

5 - 6 DECEMBER. FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS MARKETS (QLD). Complete with an Organic/Fairtrade Café, entertainment and charity info stalls, this is the perfect way to put a little meaning back into your December shopping. Choose from a huge range of home wares, books, toys, jewellery and fashion accessories plus Fairtrade tea, coffee, chocolate and gift hampers from 24 stallholders. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Marymac Centre, 616 Ipswich Road, Annerley. Contact: 0423 730 273. Web: <http://www.qldfairtrade.org.au/>.

6 DECEMBER. ABC RADIO NATIONAL'S 'MUSIC DELI' (VIC). Melbourne Recital Centre and Multicultural Arts Victoria have combined forces to bring together an exquisite mix of musical styles to invite you on a unique musical journey. This concert is dedicated to the people of Samoa and their families affected by the tsunami which devastated the

South East Coast of Samoa.

Audi Foyer: featuring at 4.15 pm, La Voce Della Luna Italian Women's Choir led by Kavisha Mazzella and 5.45 pm, Brothers in Christ Samoan Choir. No cost.

Salon: 3.00 to 4.00 pm, concert featuring Gnarnayarrahe Waitairie Didgeridoo, Jali Buba Kuyateh Kora, and Noriko Tadano Shamisen, cost: \$15.00, concession \$10.

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall: 5.00 to 7.00 pm featuring Fine Blue Thread and Zulya & the Children of the Underground, cost: \$25, concession \$20.

Melbourne Recital Centre, Sturt Street, Melbourne. Bookings at <http://www.melbournerecital.com.au> or 03 9699 3333. Web: <http://www.multiculturalarts.com.au/events2009/live.shtml>.

6 DECEMBER. YOUNG ADULTS MASS (YAM) (QLD). The Brisbane archdiocese's next Young Adult Mass will be held at St Stephen's Cathedral on December 6. It is becoming a hub for Catholic young adults in Brisbane. YAM is on every 1st Sunday of the month. Stay back for supper and fellowship after Mass. 7.30 pm, Cathedral of St Stephen, Elizabeth St, Brisbane. Contact: bcd.youth@bne.catholic.net.au, cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au or 07 3336 9111. Web: <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11638&cid=7466&id=2703>.

6 - 7 DECEMBER. MEDITATION TALK: 'SILENCE IN THE CITY' (ACT).

Laurence Freeman OSB is a Benedictine monk of the Congregation of Monte Oliveto and Director of The World Community for Christian Meditation. He will introduce, explore, and answer questions in the light of the Christian experience of meditation as a life-path. All are welcome to this ecumenical gathering. 6 December: 6.00 pm, Fr Laurence will speak at Sunday Dusk Service at the adjacent St Mark's Chapel, followed by a light meal. All are welcome. Please BYO plate of food to share. 6 December: 3.30 to 5.30 pm, cost: \$10; 7 December: 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, cost: \$25 (BYO lunch); 7 December: 1.00 to 2.00 pm, cost: \$5 (workers' lunch hour). Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall

Street (corner Kings Ave), Barton. Contact: rod@rodpage.com or 02 6281 2378. Web: <http://www.christianmeditationaustralia.org/ComingEvents.html>.

7 DECEMBER. PRESENTATION: 'FROM GUMNUTS TO BUTTONS' (TAS). A visual and interactive simulation activity aimed at helping peoples' understanding of and empathy for Aboriginal peoples' history. The activity is designed to introduce participants to new knowledge and awareness of important events and occurrences in Tasmanian history. The event will be facilitated by Amnesty International Australia's Indigenous Rights Coordinator, Rodney Dillon. 2.30 to 5.30 pm, AIA Action Centre, Level 1, 130 Macquarie Street, Hobart. Contact: tasaia@amnesty.org.au, RSVP by 3 December. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/tas/event/19659/>.

7 DECEMBER. EARTHVIGIL (NSW). Earthvigil will take place on the first day of the Copenhagen climate talks. It is a public prayer/meditation for those who care deeply about our environment - to come together for reflection and prayer at a critical time in human history. Harnessing the power of prayer, meditation, and positive intentions requires as many of us as possible - an invitation is extended to people of all faiths and backgrounds. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, Martin Place, Sydney, between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets. Contact: earthvigil1@gmail.com, 0401 272 143 or 0414 958 714. Web: <http://www.earthvigil.wordpress.com>.

7 - 8 DECEMBER. CONFERENCE: 'TRANSFORMATIONS AT THE CULTURAL INTERFACE: CONTEMPORARY ABORIGINAL CULTURAL DYNAMICS IN SOUTH-EAST AUSTRALIA' (NSW). This conference aims to explore questions of how social and cultural change is to be interpreted in post native title contexts. The specific study area of this conference is south east Australia, where Aboriginal languages are being revived, ceremonies are re-emerging and being re-imagined, and there is a resurgence of painting, dancing and other performative activities. Cost: \$130 - \$150. 9.00 am to 5.30 pm, Macquarie Graduate School of Management (MGSM), 99 Talavera Road, North

Ryde. Contact: 02 9850 9171. Web: <http://www.warawara.mq.edu.au/transformation/index.html>.

7 - 9 DECEMBER. CONFERENCE: 'TOWARDS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: THE CHALLENGES, PROMISES AND PROCESSES OF A NEW PARADIGM' (NSW). A conference on Language, Law and Social Justice co-presented by the Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association and the Sydney Institute of Criminology. Speakers: John Braithwaite, ARC Federation Fellow, Australian National University; Paul Dwyer, Performance Studies, University of Sydney; Diana Eades, School of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Sciences, University of New England; Peter Gray, Judge, Federal Court of Australia; Frances Rock, School of English Communication and Philosophy, Cardiff University; Julie Stubbs, Professor of Criminology, University of Sydney. Cost: \$370, concession \$225. Sydney Law School, Camperdown Campus, Sydney University. Contact: 02 9351 6850 or paul.dwyer@usyd.edu.au. Web: <http://www.asfla.org.au/towardsrestorativejustice/>.

10 DECEMBER. HUMAN RIGHTS MEDALS AND AWARDS CEREMONY (NSW). Since 1987, the Australian Human Rights Commission has recognised the often extraordinary contribution to Australian society of a wide variety of men and women committed to issues of human rights, social justice and equality through the annual Human Rights Medals and Awards. The Commission's President will deliver the annual Human Rights Day Oration. Cost: \$70, concession \$45. 12.00 to 3.00 pm, Grand Ballroom, Sheraton on the Park Hotel, Sydney. Contact: 02 9284 9618 or hrawards@humanrights.gov.au. Web: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/hr_awards/index.html.

10 DECEMBER. NOBEL PEACE PRIZE BREAKFAST: 'PEACE THROUGH JUSTICE' (VIC). This event marks 20 years since His Holiness the Dalai Lama received the Prize and he will be speaking about the importance of justice in the lasting resolution of conflict. The event will also feature 2009 NAIDOC Person of the Year Professor Larissa Behrendt. Professor Behrendt is a Eualeyai/Kamillaroi woman, Professor of Law and Director of

Research, Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, University of Technology, Sydney and a barrister, Supreme Court of the ACT and NSW. Cost: \$125 - \$145. 8.00 to 10.30 am, Melbourne Convention Centre, South Wharf, Melbourne. Contact: 02 9283 3466. Web: <http://www.atc.org.au/dalai-lama-mainmenu-52/australian-visit-2009>.

10 - 11 DECEMBER. CONFERENCE: 'PLANNING BY AND WITH THE PEOPLE: A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS, ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION' (VIC). At the heart of this engagement is a renewal of the concept of community, the importance of community conversations and the need to create and sustain more socially, economically and environmentally community lifestyles. This event seeks to demystify the process of community conversations, engagement and collaboration through the sharing of story illustrations and participation in workshops. Cost: \$550.

8.30 am, Rydges Bell City, 215 Bell Street, Preston. Contact: 03 9667 5525 or jhennessy@mav.asn.au. Web: <http://www.mav.asn.au/planby>.

12 DECEMBER. WALK AGAINST WARMING (NATIONAL). This is Australia's largest day of community action on climate change. Walk Against Warming will take place in locations across Australia to coincide with the midpoint of the Copenhagen Climate Summit and the International Day of Action on Climate Change. Micah Challenge encourages you to participate in the 'Walk Against Warming' event as part of our call for action on climate justice. The event calls the Australian Government to be a 'Samaritan Nation' and help our poor neighbours who will be most impacted by climate change. Web: <http://www.walkagainstawarming.org/> and <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/events>.

13 DECEMBER. FAIR@SQUARE FAIRTRADE AND ETHICAL FESTIVAL (VIC). Moral Fairground in collaboration with Multicultural Arts Victoria and Youth for Human Rights is delighted to bring you the Fair@Square fair-trade and ethical festival. This will be the first large scale festival celebrating and embracing fair

and ethical trade in Melbourne, where you can reduce poverty by shopping. 11.00 am to 7.00 pm, Federation Square, Melbourne. Contact: info@moralfairground.com.au, 0419 373 891 or 0409 943 254. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/252>.

14 DECEMBER. DOCUMENTARY: 'STEP BY STEP' (VIC). Multicultural Arts Victoria in partnership with Melbourne film maker, Thomas Baricevic of Jackson Black Films are producing this documentary that captures the fascinating development of two groups of young Sudanese refugees in Melbourne: A-MCs, a group of Sudanese school age boys who write and perform hip hop music, and a group of four young Sudanese school age girls who learn and perform hip hop dance and music as part of Jungle City Massive. 8.00 pm, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Federation Square, Flinders Street, Melbourne. Contact: 03 8663 2583, office@multiculturalarts.com.au or info@jacksonblackfilms.com. Web: <http://www.stepbystepdocumentary.com>.

16 DECEMBER. CHOIR: 'A VERY TUTTI CHRISTMAS' (SA). Tutti, consisting of members with and without a disability, has become one of Australia's leading community arts organisations and has delighted and inspired concert audiences both here and overseas. Let joy and inspiration fill your hearts as this award-winning choir takes you on a unique and very special musical journey. Cost: \$20, concession \$15. 7.30 pm, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 420 Seaview Road, Henley Beach. Contact: 1300 727 432. Web: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/AdelaideYouthMinistry/events>.

17 DECEMBER. FUNDRAISING EVENT: AID/WATCH TRIVIA NIGHT (NSW). AID/WATCH annual Christmas trivia night includes fabulous prizes, entertaining quizmaster, a delicious dinner, and all while supporting AID/WATCH's important work. Cost: \$35, concession \$20, or \$50 for passionate supporters. 6:30 pm, The Workshop, 16 Sloane Street, Enmore. Contact: 02 9557 8944, 0434 829 084 or email ozzie@aidwatch.org.au. Web: <http://www.aidwatch.org.au/>.

3 JANUARY 2010. FUNDRAISING EVENT: 'RESOLUTION RUN' (SA). This is not just another fun run, at the same time you can raise funds for Caritas Australia through Everyday Hero. Cost: \$10 - \$25. 7.30 am to 10.30 am, Rotunda, Elder Park, Adelaide. Web: <http://www.active8change.com.au/>, RSVP by 1 January 2010.

8 - 28 JANUARY 2010. CROSS CULTURAL SUMMER SCHOOL (NSW). This Summer School has been developed as a collaborative venture of the Sisters of St Joseph and St Columban's Mission Society. Cross cultural preparation is essential for many ministries. This course provides theological, spiritual, psychological and social understandings for people crossing into an unfamiliar culture in aspects of their ministry. It is expected that participants have had experience of cross-cultural ministry at home or abroad or are preparing for such a ministry in the future. Course co-ordinator: Annie Bond rsj. Cost: \$2920. St Joseph's Centre for Reflective Living, 64 MacKillop Drive, Baulkham Hills. Contact: 02 9634 2317 or annie.bond@stjosephscentre.org.au, RSVP by 1 December. Web: http://cathnews.com/uploads/marketing/pdfs/stjosephscentre_cross_culturalSummerSchool2010Brochure.pdf.

16 - 30 JANUARY 2010. MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION: 'BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER WORLD' (VIC). Caritas Australia and the Australian Government's aid agency, AusAID, are exhibiting this display around Australia. It highlights the Millennium Development Goals and the promise of world Governments to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Video, photographs, visual installation as well as contributions (such as posters, baskets, school books, readers) from Caritas partner communities make up the installation. No cost. 10.00 am to 8.00 pm daily, Federation Square in the BMW Edge Theatre, Melbourne. Contact: 03 9267 0317 or maryannec@caritas.org. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/blueprint/Venues/index.html>.

18 JANUARY - 22 JANUARY 2010. DISCIPLES WITHOUT BORDERS (dWb) (QLD). This camp is for students from Grades 10-12. This year dWb, through the partnership SU Qld and TEAR Australia have formed a camp that will explore

in depth the issues facing those who work with the poorest of the world people overseas. Make new friends during a week of Music, Games and Discipleship with a team of caring leaders who have had firsthand experience in serving across borders. Cost: \$200. Contact: gld@tear.org.au or 07 3888 0571. Register at <http://www.suqld.org.au/camps/dwb>.

21 - 26 JANUARY 2010. 'AMONG THE URBAN COMMUNITY (AMUC): A LOCAL EXPOSURE TRIP' (WA). AMUC is a mission exposure trip in our own city. The AMUC experience invites followers to a deeper faith where there are no easy answers. It aims to broaden the experience of Christians while allowing space to reflect on the message of Christ. Speaker: Stephen Said, TEAR. Cost: \$150. Perth Church of Christ. Contact: 08 9443 5100 or smck@bigpond.net.au, RSVP by 7 January 2010. Web: <http://www.tear.org.au/states/news/among-the-urban-community-a-local-exposure-trip/>.

27 JANUARY - 2 FEBRUARY 2010. DIALOGUE: 'DOCUMENTING VIOLATIONS' (INTERNATIONAL). NewTactics in Human Rights presents this on-line dialogue featuring practitioners that have developed database systems to document human rights violations, organisations on the ground documenting violations, and those that are training practitioners on how to choose the right approach for their documentation needs. If you are trying to figure out the best system to document violations - or if you have found something that works well for you, please join us for this conversation to share your questions, ideas, resources and stories. Web: <http://www.newtactics.org/en/node/8394>.

28 - 29 JANUARY 2010. AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SOCIAL INCLUSION CONFERENCE (VIC). The conference is an opportunity to join a national conversation about effective and innovative social inclusion policy and practice. The conference will be highly interactive and offer participants an opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss topics and learn from each other to build a more socially inclusive Australia. Speakers: Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Director, International Institute for Society and Health, and Research Professor of Epidemiology and

Public Health, University College London; and Christine Davies CBE, CEO, Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services. Cost: \$450 - \$900. Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, Melbourne. Contact: janis.dogan@pmc.gov.au or 02 6271 5742. Web: <http://www.socialinclusionconference.com.au/>.

FEBRUARY 2010. FEBFAST FUNDRAISER (NATIONAL). FebFast invites people to sacrifice their alcohol intake during the shortest month of the year, and at the same time, raise funds to support organisations working to reduce alcohol and other drug related harm in young people through research, prevention and service delivery activities. Funds raised through FebFast are distributed across Australia through a grants program that takes place in the second half of the year. Web: <http://www.febfast.com.au/>.

6 - 7 FEBRUARY 2010. SENTENCING CONFERENCE (ACT). The Conference will look at sentencing of criminal offenders from several perspectives including informing the

public about sentencing, sentencing indigenous offenders, children and sentencing, national consistency in sentencing, sentencing in arson (bushfire) cases and sentencing in sexual assault cases. Presented by National Judicial College of Australia / ANU College of Law. Cost: \$350. National Convention Centre, Canberra. Contact: sentencing@law.anu.edu.au, 02 6125 6655 or 02 6125 2906, RSVP by 29 January. Web:

<http://www.njca.com.au/Professional%20Development/programs%20by%20year/2010/Sentencing%202010/Sentencing%202010.htm>

7 FEBRUARY. FUNDRAISING SWIM: SYDNEY MORNING HERALD COLE CLASSIC SWIM (NSW).

This iconic event is a challenge for people to swim 1km or 2km through the surf. Held in conjunction with the Manly Life Saving Club, The Cole Classic is a great event for every aspiring swimmer. At the same time you can fundraise for Caritas, CatholicCare, Father Chris Riley's Youth off the Streets, St Vincent de Paul NSW, etc. Cost: \$42 - \$57. Shelly Beach, Manly. Contact/Web: <http://www.coleclassic.com/>.

News Monitor

Caritas joins global call for urgent climate action

Ahead of the United Nations climate conference in Copenhagen, Caritas International, together with other international aid organisations, warned that "urgent action" is needed in order to prevent global hunger due to climate change.

Religious leaders join dam protest

St Patrick's Catholic Church in Pomona was hosting an ecumenical service in protest against the Traveston Dam, bringing together spiritual leaders, activists and others who are opposed to the project.

ACU honours Timor graduate

At a graduation ceremony for the Catholic Teachers' College in Baucau, East Timor, ACU Vice-Chancellor Professor Greg Craven conferred the university's highest honour on former ACU National graduate Isabel Guterres.

Deal humanely with asylum seekers : Vinnies

The St Vincent de Paul Society was calling for fairness and compassion in dealing with asylum seekers and urged for a "humanitarian position" on the matter

Elderly religious arrested in weapons protest

US priest Father Bill "Bix" Bischel, 81, and

Sister Anne Montgomery, 83 were hooded, handcuffed and held faced down on the ground for four hours before being arrested for a protest against nuclear weapons.

Smart meters will hurt those who stay home: Vinnies

Low income earners could pay as much as 40 percent of their fortnightly income on electricity with the advent of smart metering, and some households face an annual increase of \$320 in electricity bills.

Principal says forgive Ferguson

Comments encouraging forgiveness for convicted paedophile Dennis Ferguson, by Shalom College Bundaberg principal Dan McMahon, raised hackles among some parents while others agreed it was the Christian thing to do.

Pope to attend UN summit on world hunger

The UN food agency hosted a summit to address the “enormous tragedy” of world hunger, said its director-general, Jacques Diouf. Pope Benedict was among global leaders in attendance.

Pope appeals to Sri Lanka to let civilians return home

Pope Benedict XVI was appealing to the Sri Lankan government to hasten the process of allowing displaced civilians to return home from internment camps.

Human trafficking surge feared for 2010 World Cup

The South Africa Bishop’s Conference (SACBC) was warning that thousands of women will be trafficked for prostitution at the soccer World Cup 2010 in South Africa.

Mine deal worries activists

The Rudd Government was being called to tighten controls over the way Australian companies operate overseas, following reports that local company Anvil Mining, which was caught up in alleged war crimes in Africa, could partner UK oil company Trafigura, which landed in trouble over dumping toxic waste.

Pope warns world leaders on food security

Addressing the World Summit on Food Security, Pope Benedict warned against the “greed” of

cereal speculators and defended the right of each nation to defend its food security.

Fewer instances of racism at Catholic schools

A national study found that 80 percent of secondary students from non-Anglo backgrounds and 55 percent of students from Anglo backgrounds have experienced racial vilification in schools. But students who attended a Catholic school were 1.7 times less likely to report experiences of racism than students going to government schools.

Church reiterates apology to institutional care abuse victims

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference reiterated its own apology to children who suffered in institutional care, as a national apology was made yesterday and news media highlighted tales of abuse from former victims.

Jesus was an asylum seeker: Bishop

The Bishop of Port Pirie Greg O’Kelly was urging for proper perspective on the matter of asylum seekers, pointing out that Mary, Joseph and Jesus were “technically asylum seekers fleeing to Egypt unauthorised.”

Africans surfing safari for new life

Centacare Catholic Family Services and Victoria Police organised a unique weekend camp to help 15 African dads and their children to adapt to local culture. It included surfing lessons.

Human rights commission will restrict religion: Pell

Sydney’s Cardinal George Pell expressed trepidation about the country’s proposed human rights commission, telling a gathering of the Australian Christian Lobby that it could expect restrictions on religious people.

Welfare revamp comes with compulsory income management

In a major revamp, Families Minister Jenny Macklin would be able to declare any locality as an area of extreme disadvantage under new laws that will open up welfare recipients to compulsory income management, Catholic welfare bodies caution.

- *Courtesy Church Resources, for details click on headlines or go to <http://cathnews.com>*



Social Justice Calendar

1 TUE	World AIDS Day	(White Australia Policy) enacted, 1901
2 WED	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	25 FRI Christmas Day (Solemnity)
3 THU	International Day of Disabled Persons Battle of the Eureka Stockade, 1874	27 SUN Holy Family (Feast)
5 SAT	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development	29 TUE International Day for Biological Diversity
6 SUN	2nd Sunday of Advent St Nicholas (Santa Claus)	31 THU Paid annual leave granted to workers in Australia, 1946
7 MON	International Civil Aviation Day	JANUARY 2010
10 THU	Human Rights Day: Adoption of United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 Prime Minister Paul Keating's Speech to launch International Year of the World's Indigenous People, 1992 Death of Thomas Merton, 1968	1 FRI Mary, Mother of God (Solemnity) World Day of Prayer for Peace Theme: If you want to cultivate peace, safeguard creation Foundation of Commonwealth of Australia, 1901 Native Title Act commenced operation, 1994
13 SUN	3rd Sunday of Advent	3 SUN Epiphany of Jesus (Solemnity) First loans by the Grameen Bank, 1977: founded by Muhammad Yunus in Bangladesh and now worldwide: Winners of 2006 Nobel Prize
18 FRI	International Migrants Day Islamic New Year South Australian Parliament was the first in the world to give women the right to vote, 1894	10 SUN Baptism of Jesus (Feast) First U.N. General Assembly opens with 51 nations represented, 1946
20 SUN	4th Sunday of Advent	15 FRI Martin Luther King Jr born in Atlanta USA, 1929
21 MON	Native Title Bill passed by the Senate, 1993 Dissolution of the USSR and the founding of the Commonwealth of Independent States including Russia, 1991	17 SUN 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees
23 WED	Wik decision, 1996 Immigration Restriction Act	18 MON World Week of Prayer for Christian Unity commences.
		24 SUN 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Feast of St Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalism - Papal Message for World Day for Communications (May 24) is traditionally published on this day		Aboriginal Tent Embassy established in Canberra, 1972
		27 WED	UN International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust
25 MON	Second Vatican Council promulgated by Pope John XXIII, 1959	30 SAT	Mahatma Gandhi assassinated, 1948
		31 SUN	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
26 TUE	Australia Day/Survival Day		

Notes on these dates are available in the printed ACSJC's Social Justice Diary 2010. The cost is \$6.60. To order go to http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html, or call 02 8306 3499.

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